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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1232
INFO RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3529
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1574
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1574
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2606
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5342
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2968
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 3436
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 3242
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 1418
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 000071

SIPDIS

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DOJ FOR CRIM AAG SWARTZ, DOJ/OPDAT FOR
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/14/2019

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SUBJECT: TERRORIST TRIALS BEGIN IN JAKARTA

REF: 08 JAKARTA 1298 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph L. Novak, reasons 1.4(b+d).

11. (U) This message was coordinated with Consulate Medan.

12. (C) SUMMARY: The trials of ten alleged terrorists have begun in Jakarta. The ten suspects were arrested in Palembang, South Sumatra, in July 2008. The suspects are linked to the terrorist Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and other Muslim hard-line organizations. One of the suspects, a Singaporean national, is an alleged associate of Singaporean JI leader Mas Selamat Kastari (who escaped last year from a Singapore prison).

13. (C) SUMMARY (Con'd): The ten alleged terrorists face between four years in prison and the death sentence for violating the 2003 Anti-Terrorism Law. The USG-funded Task Force on Terrorism and Transnational Crime is overseeing the prosecution in each case. END SUMMARY.

TERRORIST TRIALS BEGIN

14. (SBU) The GOI has formally charged ten suspected terrorists linked to the so-called JI Palembang cell. The ten are being tried in four separate cases, running concurrently. The suspects were grouped based on the severity of their crimes and the articles of the Anti-Terrorism Law under which they are being tried. The group was arrested in a July 2008 raid on a suspected JI safehouse in Palembang, South Sumatra (reftel). At the time of the arrests, the men were allegedly plotting an attack on a bar frequented by non-Muslims in a resort town on the island of Sumatra in Western Indonesia. The men, who became affiliated through their membership in the local Forum Against Apostasy or FAKTA group, allegedly called off the attack after realizing that Muslims might be killed. They

are accused of killing an Indonesian teacher in 2007 and of attempting to kill a Catholic priest in 2005.

15. (C) Fajar Taslim is the most notable of the suspects. According to the GOI narrative, the bearded, severe looking Singaporean (of Malay extraction) English teacher was a bomb maker who met with Osama bin Laden and had a close relationship with Singaporean JI leader Mas Selamat Kastari. He was allegedly a courier between bin Laden and Riduan Isamuddin aka "Hambali," who is currently under detention in Guantanamo Bay. Taslim became a teacher of the alleged terrorists because of his past association with Kastari as well as noted bomb-maker Dr. Azahari (who was killed by Indonesian security forces in 2005). He faces the death sentences under these charges.

CHARGES OUTLINED

16. (C) The ten suspects were charged under various articles of the 2003 Anti-Terrorism Law:

--Abdurrohman aka Musa aka Ta'ib aka Ivan and Ki Agus Muhammad Toni are charged with planning and mobilizing others to commit an act of terrorism under article 14, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years.

--Sugiarto aka Sugicheng aka Raja, Agustiawarman aka Abu Taskid and Heri Purwanto aka Abu Hurairoh are charged with conspiring or giving assistance to an act of terrorism under articles 7 and 15.

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--In a separate trial, Fajar Taslim aka Muhammad Hasan, Ali Mashudi aka Zuber, and Wahyudi aka Yudi are also charged under articles 6 and 15 for plotting to cause fear and cause mass casualties. Those convicted under Article 15 may be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

--Anis Sugandi aka Abdullah Hussair and Sukarso Abdillah aka Abdurrohman are charged with aiding and abetting an act of terrorism under article 13 and face a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment.

TOP-NOTCH TASK FORCE PROSECUTING CASE

17. (SBU) The trials are being held in the Central Jakarta District Court where members of the Attorney General's (AGO) Terrorism and Transnational Crime Task Force are leading the prosecutions. Two of the cases are being handled by the same USG-trained prosecutors, Narendra Jatna and Totok Bambang, who successfully convicted JI leader Abu Dujana on terrorism charges in April 2008.

18. (C) Prosecutors Totok Bambang and Narendra Jatna told Poloff that, contrary to press reports, not all of the suspects were JI members. They clarified that the Palembang group was affiliated via the FAKTA group and was connected to JI through Taslim. Narendra Jatna elaborated that although Taslim had allegedly learned bomb making from Dr. Azahari, it was more likely that he used readily available manuals to teach the group bomb-making techniques.

HEFFERN